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Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners
Professional Counselor Examiners Committee
Board of Psychological Examiners

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
EXAMINERS
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	
	:	Administrative Action
MICHELLE S. LaCOUTURE	:	
	:	CONSENT ORDER
Unlicensed Practice in	:	
The State of New Jersey	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Professional Counselor Examiners Committee (the "Committee"), the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, and the New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners (the "Boards") upon receipt of information which disclosed that Michelle S. LaCouture ("Respondent") engaged in providing unlicensed professional counseling and psychotherapy services in New Jersey in a private practice setting under the supervision of Nabil El-Rafei, M.D., P.A. It appears to the Committee and the Boards that for approximately three and a half years, Respondent engaged in the practice of psychotherapy despite the fact that she has not held

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

any license which would entitle her to provide such services in New Jersey.

Having reviewed the entire record, it appears to the Committee and the Boards that Respondent has engaged in the unlicensed practice of professional counseling, marriage and family therapy and psychotherapy in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39 and N.J.S.A. 45:14B-2 by having advertised and/or engaged in offering counseling services to the public which she was not legally authorized to engage in or to offer.

It appearing that Respondent wishes to resolve this matter without further proceedings, and the Committee and the Boards having determined that the following provisions are sufficiently protective of the public interest and welfare, and for other good cause shown:

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 31st day of January, 2006,
ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from advertising, offering to engage in or engaging in any counseling services in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39 and N.J.S.A. 45:14B-2.

2. Respondent shall not advertise, offer to provide or engage in the practice of professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, psychology, psychotherapy services, social work, mental health therapy, and/or any other mental health counseling services in the State of New Jersey unless and until fully

authorized to perform each respective service by the New Jersey State Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, and/or the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, and/or the New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners, and/or the New Jersey Board of Social Worker Examiners.

3. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to the State of New Jersey within thirty (30) days of the entry of the within Consent Order. Payment shall be by certified check or money order, payable to the "State of New Jersey" and sent to Elaine DeMars, Executive Director, Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, P.O. Box 45044, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

NEW JERSEY STATE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR
EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

By: _____

J. Barry Mascari
J. Barry Mascari, LPC
President

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

By: _____

James Verser
James Verser, Ed.S.
President

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____

Victoria Jeffers, Ph.D.
Victoria Jeffers, Ph.D.
Chair

I have read and understand the
within Consent Order and agree
to be bound by its terms. Consent
is hereby given to the Committee
and the Boards to enter this Order.

Michelle S. LaCouture

Michelle S. LaCouture

1/31/06

Date

Consent as to form and entry:

Steven Wallach

Steven Wallach, Esq.

1/24/06

Date